CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A human-carried portable medical tank assembly comprising the following:

a tank;

a tank-holding assembly; and

at least one shoulder strap attached to the pouch, with at least a portion of the strap being configured to flex during movement of the human carrier of the tank assembly to such a degree that the perceived weight of the tank is lessened.

2. A tank assembly according to claim 1, wherein the at least one strap comprises a multi-element strap.

3. A tank assembly according to claim 2, wherein the strap further comprises the following:

a flexible section; and

a first structural section having a first end secured to the tank pouch and a second end secured to the flexible section; and

a second structural section having a first end secured to the tank pouch and a second end secured to the flexible section;

whereby the structural sections are fabricated from a material that has less "give" than the material from which flexible section is made.

4. A tank assembly according to claim 3, wherein the flexible section comprises the following:

a flexible element having a first length; and

a structural element secured to the first flexible element and having a second length, with the second length being greater than the first length.

5. A tank assembly according to claim 4, wherein the flexible element is secured in overlaying relation to the structural element.

6. A tank assembly according to claim 5, wherein the flexible element is fabricated from neoprene.

7. A tank assembly according to claim 1, wherein the a tank-holding assembly comprises a pouch fabricated from neoprene.

8. A human-carried portable medical fluid assembly comprising the following:

a source of therapeutic liquid;

a source-holding assembly adapted and constructed to contain the source of therapeutic fluid; and

a shoulder strap attached to the a source-holding assembly, with at least a portion of the strap being configured to flex during movement of the human carrier of the source-holding assembly to such a degree that the perceived weight of the source-holding assembly is lessened.

9. A medical fluid assembly according to claim 8, wherein the strap comprises a multi-element strap.

10. A medical fluid assembly according to claim 9, wherein the strap further comprises the following:

a flexible section; and

a first structural section having a first end secured to the source-holding assembly and a second end secured to the flexible section; and

a second structural section having a first end secured to the source-holding assembly and a second end secured to the flexible section;

whereby the structural sections are fabricated from a material that has less "give" than the material from which flexible section is made.

11. A medical fluid assembly according to claim 10, wherein the flexible section comprises the following:

a flexible element having a first length; and

a structural element secured to the first flexible element and having a second length, with the second length being greater than the first length.

12. A medical fluid assembly according to claim 11, wherein the flexible element is secured in overlaying relation to the structural element.

13. A medical fluid assembly according to claim 12, wherein the flexible element is fabricated from neoprene.

14. A medical fluid assembly according to claim 8, wherein the source-holding assembly comprises a pouch fabricated from neoprene.

15. A method for carrying a portable medical tank assembly, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a tank containing a therapeutic liquid;

placing the tank in a tank-holding assembly adapted and constructed to contain the tank;

attaching a shoulder strap to the tank-holding assembly, with at least a portion of the strap being configured to flex during movement of the human carrier of the tank-holding assembly to such a degree that the perceived weight of the tank and tank-holding assembly is lessened; and

securing the strap to the shoulder of a user.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the step of providing a strap comprises providing a multi-element strap.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein step of providing a strap further comprises the following:

providing a flexible section;

securing a first end of a first structural section to the tank-holding assembly;

securing a second end of a first structural section to the flexible section;

securing a first end of a second structural section to the tank-holding assembly; and

securing a second end of the second structural section to the flexible section;

whereby the structural sections are fabricated from a material that has less "give" than the material from which flexible section is made.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the flexible section comprises the following:

a flexible element having a first length; and

a structural element secured to the first flexible element and having a second length, with the second length being greater than the first length.

19. A method according to claim 18, further comprising securing the flexible element in overlaying relation to the structural element.

20. A method according to claim 15, further comprising providing the tank-holding assembly as a pouch fabricated from neoprene.